



WORTHINGTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Minutes of the Tuesday, December 17, 2013 Meeting

Members Present - The members present were Laura Ball, Bob Burpee, Peter Calamari, Dave Kessler, Rob Wendling, and Darren Hurley, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Also present was Paula Deming representing Arbor Committee, Mary Kay Scott, Recreation Supervisor at the Griswold Center, and Michele Miller, future Parks & Recreation Commission Member.

The minutes from the November 19, 2013 meeting were approved.

Bike and Pedestrian Plan Update – A steering committee has been formed, with Rob Wendling representing the Parks and Recreation Commission, to make prioritized recommendations to City Council on Bike and Pedestrian accessibility in Worthington. The group is tasked with creating a Bike and Pedestrian plan complete with a list of prioritized projects for Council. They are meeting bi-weekly and will be bringing their ideas to public meetings and this Commission before finalizing them. Mr. Hurley handed out a packet containing a timeline of goals for the next year as well as a roster for the committee and five points that make a bicycle friendly community.

Parks and Recreation Department Mission and Vision Process – Mr. Hurley asked the commission to give some feedback on the department's mission statement. He provided a handout and homework for the members to think about what the Mission and Vision of Parks and Recreation in Worthington should be. Mr. Hurley's goal is to come up with a new Mission Statement that is comprehensive and simple. He feels creating a clear vision is necessary to help set future goals and direct staff.

Silver Sneakers Program – Silver Sneakers is an insurance incentive program now offered at the Community Center. This program allows those who qualify to use the fitness facility for free while the insurance company pays the city for their cost. This program began in October and will add certain classes at the Community Center and Griswold Center beginning in January. It will be one

year's time before it can be fully evaluated on how this new program will affect budget, revenue, and attendance numbers.

Other – The Community Center roof repair has been approved, funds have been appropriated and bidding documents are being prepared. The bid is expected to go out by early spring 2014.

The Tree Illumination Event took place on December 1st on the Village Green. A few changes were made this year and they will be evaluated to improve the event in years to come. This year's event was hosted by Chris Bradley from 10TV and included carols from school choirs, crafts, an ice carver, hot chocolate, and Santa announcements ending with a candlelit tree lighting ceremony.

The community Holiday Party was held on December 13th at the Community Center. The attendance was 660 people and activities included an ice carver, crafts, candy trail, photo station, carnival games, raffle, visit with Santa, and stories with the Library.

An interactive piece of playground equipment is on loan from PlayWorld Systems and located in the Community Center Game Room. The NEOS combines the speed and fun of video games with explosive movement of aerobic exercise. Players race each other and the clock as they are developing agility, coordination, strength, and stamina while building teamwork and cooperation skills.

McCord Park revitalization project is still to be thought about but may be delayed financially due to the Community Center roof repairs. When a plan for the park is put in place the funding will follow. Members commented this should be a goal to get a plan in place during 2014.

The West Wilson Bridge Multi-Use Trail landscaping plan has successfully been approved by the Planning Commission. Plans are to bid the construction in January and start work in the spring with everything completed by June 30, 2014.

Being no further business, the motion for the meeting to adjourn was granted.